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SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF THE SELECT NOVELS BY DAN BROWN, AGATHA CHRISTIE AND ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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1.1. Introduction:

The present research study attempts to analyze and interpret the semiotic analysis of the select novels by Dan Brown, Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle. They supposed to be the Best-Selling authors in literature, their literary achievement including crime fiction, detective fiction which is the genus of mystery fiction. There are various elements of mystery writings used by these two authors. The novels have multiple implications. Their characters always associated with crime, murder, conspiracy and filled with severe of passion. Their characters hold the story till the end. The aim of the writers seems to present mystery clues, suspense and thrilling events in their writings with semiotic analysis to attract the readers and present the problems of the society. Their novels are in tradition of mystery, detective fiction but they take a height of the stereotypical fiction with their subtly realistic characterizations, complete motivations and sophisticated plot.

Semiotics is one of the finest analyses of the literary work. Semiotics is the study of signs; it is also describe the signs, symbols and icons. It is study of sign and sign using behavior. It demarcated by one its founders, the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure. Semiotics was the categorization of Signs into three parts in that the first part ‘an icon’ which reflects its referent. The second is ‘an index’ and third is ‘a symbol’. Language is a sing system and it reflects the meaning through the signs.

.Arthur Conan Doyle was an eminent writer and master of logic and deduction. Agatha Christie presents the formal puzzle, the traditional English mystery, classical detective novels fiction .She associated with the Golden Age of detective fiction. Whereas Dan Brown presents the mystery related to religion and scientific way. He uses more scientific techniques to find out the actual predicament of mystery with the help of detective. His favorite subject include codes, puzzles, treasure hunts, secretive organizations and academic lectures on obscure topics, he tends to incorporate those into his novels.

In the present research work, an endeavor has been made to explore the intellects of Doyle, Christie and Brown. There are number of common aspects of their literary personality reflected in their writing. They are very carefully handling the elements of intrigue, conspiracy, detection, suspense, love, science, and occult to sustain the interest of the readers. Their novels are readable, engaging and entraining with several characters, well-knit plot, curiosity of the story, and

unforgettable settings. Agatha Christie's novels are set moreover in the countryside of England or the metropolitan world of London with every class of society. In this respect, Christie could be compared with Arthur Conan Doyle and known as 'Queen of Crime'. Along with Dan Brown's novels are set in American vicinity like famous churches, ancient and well-known places etc.

A. Brief Introduction of 'Mystery Fiction with Semiotics:

According to some critics the origin of this genre was in the works of Aesop's Fables and Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'. The first full length mystery novels were probable Willkie Collins (1824-89) he was an English novelist. Although trained as lawyer, he has spent most of his life in writing 30 novels.

Mystery fiction is often used as a synonym for detective fiction or crime fiction in short in these novels a detective investigates crime and solves a crime mystery. The stories are emphasis on semiotics elements alike the puzzle or suspense elements and its logical solution. We can find this quality in an early work of modern fiction in Das Fraulein von Scudery by E.T.A.Hoffimann (1819).Mystery fiction always creates wonder and wonder and man made his mind to solve this mystery.

The detective story was invented by well known author Edgar Allan Poe, even if he wrote only four stories before he lost his interest in mystery fiction. Many mystery writers were picked up where he left off, but the first "career" practitioner of this genre who is still imperative to us today is Arthur Conan Doyle, whose Sherlock Holmes series appeared from 1887 to 1927. By Christie's time, at least two conventions had been established. First was the detective' eccentricity and the second rule was the absolutely central role of ratiocination. The detective, a person, when he is on operation shows almost no emotion. What he been evidence for and what constitutes the main pleasure of the stories is inductive reasoning.

In the world of literature the mystery books, novels are recent development. In the early days in this genre short mystery tales were very popular; this form was published in magazines. This is a subgenre of narrative fiction. Usually engrosses a mysterious death or crime to be solved in which was planned in semiotic codes and puzzles. In the early age the prose tales were middle romances and magical tales of heroic knights and dragons inhabiting a mythical world which was written down by aristocrats who had the funds, the time, and the ability to read.

The rise of literacy began with the invention of printing press, which led to distribution written materials. Another was new translation and publication of Bible. In 19th century Industrial development was changed the life of the world and therefore people obtained spare time to read,

in that many readers were women. Young man is going off to make his way in the world, a series of adventures and romantic encounters. The massive popularity of pulp magazines in1930's and 1940's increased interest in mystery fiction and its semiotic analysis. Mystery is genre of fiction where the protagonist must solve a crime or figure out puzzling events through the semiotic study.

Mystery fiction can hold on your uninterrupted attention till the end. When we compared this with other fiction we can find this fiction has some profound some semiotic icons, index and symbols which find the secrets in which something wholly unknown and it gives a challenge to human mind sometimes it cannot be explained because it is beyond the human comprehension.

Mystery fiction can be divided into numerous categories, among them as follows:

1. Traditional mystery

2. Legal thriller

3. Medical thriller

4. Cozy mystery

5. Police procedural

6. Hardboiled

7. Detective fiction

A mystery story can include many different types of characters. They include:

1. Suspects
2. Detectives, sleuths and spices
3. Witnesses
4. Low enforcement
5. Ghosts
6. Other characters who trying to solve a mystery.
7. Shady people

In a mystery, the plot often revolves around solving a problem and tries to find out the solution.

This may come in the form of Semiotic elements:

- A puzzling situation
- A crime that was committed
- A secret
- A missing person, animals, or objects
- An unexplained event

To solve the mystery, readers need to look for the semiotic clues or hints about what happened. Readers must watch out for red herrings or false clues designed to throw them off the trail. The plot of the mystery stories often follows the following ways such as at the Beginning- The characters and problem are introduced in the Middle- Detective collects clues and work to solve the mystery and at the End -of the story the mystery is solved because of semiotic elements.

Interest in mystery writings persists to this day because of various television shows which have used mystery themes. Television has aggravated to be an endless source of delight for mystery fans. It has provided mystery lovers with an apparently endless stream of colourful pictures and characters over the years and into the present. Many adult novels and juvenile writings have used same themes which continue to be published. Many authors of 'thriller' and 'suspense' novels consider themselves mystery novelists. Film adaptations have helped to re-popularize this genre. The attractiveness of mystery has a long and varied history and shows no sign of abating. Mystery in all its forms will continually to capture the public's imagination, regardless of the medium, well in to the future

There are many writers who successfully grabbed this genre with its categories and got fame and popularity. Sometime luck can help you to solve mystery. A mystery draws you in and the end it hangs you and makes you bound to wait till the end.

2. A Brief Biographical Sketch and Literary Career of Dan Brown ,Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle:

Dan Brown is an American author of mystery and thriller fiction, Dan Brown was born in June 22, 1964 in Exeter, New Hampshire, USA, the eldest of three children. Brown grew up in the campus of Phillips Exeter Academy, where his father, Richard G. Brown, was a teacher of mathematics. Both of his parents are also singers and musicians, church choir masters, with his mother plays important role in serving Brown's interest in secrets and puzzles stems their presence in his household as a child, where codes and ciphers were the linchpin tying together and mathematics, music and language in which his parents worked.

Brown graduated in Amherst in 1986.In 1991 he moved to Hollywood to pursue a career as singer-song writer and pianist. In 1996 Brown quit teaching to become a full-time writer, his novels, which treasure hunts set in a 24-hour time period, feature the recurring themes of cryptography, keys, symbols, codes and conspiracy theories. His books have been translated into over 40 languages and as of 2009, sold over 80 million copies. Two of them, "The Da Vinci Code" and "Angels & Demons" have been adapted into feature films. His favorite subject include codes, puzzles, treasure hunts, secretive organizations and academic lectures on obscure topics, he tends to incorporate those into his novels.

Dan Brown's works:

Novels

1) Digital Fortress, 1998

2) Angels & Demons, 2000

3) Deception Point, 2001

4) The Da Vinci Code, 2003

5) The Lost Symbols, 2009

Films

1) The Da Vinci Code

2) Angels & Demons, 2009

3) The Lost Symbols, 2012

Agatha Christie:

Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born in Torquay, Devon, England, U.K. Agatha is the youngest of three children. The Miller's had two other children namely Margaret Frary Miller, called Madge, who was eleven years senior of Agatha's, and Louis Montant Miller , called Monty, who was ten years older than Agatha. Before her marriage she had served in a Devon hospital during the First World War, tending to troops coming back from the trenches. She worked at a hospital as a nurse; during the First World War, later working at a hospital pharmacy, this job that influenced her work, in her many books numerous of the murders in her books are carried out with poison. In the duration of the Second World War, Agatha worked as a pharmacy assistant at University College Hospital, in London. She acquired a good knowledge of poisons which attributed in her many novels.

Agatha Christie is one of the best-selling authors of all time. She wrote nearly sixty-six crime novels and story collections, fourteen plays, and six novels under a pseudonym in Romance. Agatha Christie wrote romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, and was occasionally published under her name Agatha Christie Mallowan. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language and a billion in translation. According to Index Translationum, "she remains the most-translated individual author, having been translated into at least 103 languages." She is the creator of two of the most enduring figures in crime literature- 'Hercule Poirot and Miss Jane Marple'-and author of 'The Mousetrap', the longest-running play in the history of Modern Theatre. For her stories Christie recurrently used familiar setting.

Agatha Christie was renowned for her crime novels. Agatha Christie was an English crime novelist, short-story writer and playwright. She is an author of 66 detective novels and 15 short-A story collections that have sold over two billion copies, an amount surpassed only by the Bible and

the works of William Shakespeare. In Agatha's works researcher find numerous regular characters with whom the public became familiar, including Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple, Tommy and Tuppence Beresford, Parker Pyne and Harley Quin. Christie wrote many Poirot stories than any of the others, Following the publication of the 1975 novel 'Curtain', Poirot's obituary appeared on the front page of 'The New York Times'.

Christie was the first recipient of the 'The Grand Master Award' in 1955 which was given by The Mystery Writers of America. Later that year for her play 'Witness for the Prosecution' she won an Edgar Award by the MWA for Best Play. Her work 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' in 2013 was voted as the best crime novel ever written by 600 fellow writers Crime Writer's Association. On her 125th Birthday, on 15 September 2015 'And Then There Were None' this novel was named as "World's Favourite Christie" in a vote sponsored by the Author's estate. Most of her books and short stories have been adapted for television, radio, video games and comics.

Agatha Christie's works:

Best Selling Novels:

1. Murder on the Orient Express.(1934)
2. And Then There Were None(1939)
3. The Mysterious Affair at styles(1986)
4. Death on the Nile(1937)
5. The Murder of Roger Ackroyd(1926)
6. The Big Four (1927)

Short-Stories:

1. Poirot Investigates (1924)
2. Partners in Crime (1929)
3. The Mysterious Mr.Quin(1930)
4. The Thirteen problems (1932)
5. The Hound of Death (1933)

Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a British Writer who created the very popular character in the Mystery world, Sherlock Holmes. His popular four novels and short stories made him well-

known in mystery writings. Originally he was a physician. He is also known as the ‘Master of logic’. He became massive successful because his detective character Sherlock Holmes. He give up medical practice and he was became a popular mystery writer. He dedicated his life for writing plays, verse, memoirs, and an articles on sport, short stories and historical novels.

He is author of best mystery books like:

1. The Study of Scarlet (1887)
2. The sign of four (1890)
3. The Hound of the Baskervilles (1902)
4. The Valley of Fear (1914)
5. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Reader: from Sherlock Holmes to Spiritualism (2002)

Short Story Collections

1.A Case Study of Identity (1891)

2. The Adventures of a Sherlock Holmes (1892)

3. The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes(1894)

3. Rational Behind the selection

1.5aspects.Researcher has keen interest andcuriosity in his mystery writing and semiotic elements it will be a best attempt for researcher to study these novels.

4. A Glimpse of Dan Brown’s , Agatha Christie’s and Arthur Conan Doyal selected Novels:

a) ‘The Da Vinci Code’:

“The Da Vinci Code “is a mystery-detective novel written by Dan Brown in 2003.This novel deals with aspects like detective story, exciting story, conspiracy(like murder, thrill and crime) and it is published by Doubleday Group (United States).The title of the novel refers to, among other things, the fact that the murder victim is found in the Grand Gallery of the Louvreu, naked and posed like Leonardo da Vinci’s famous drawing , the semiotic sign of the Vitruvian Man, with a cryptic message written beside his body and a pentacle drawn on his chest in his own body. The major theme of the novel is “Mystery and Wonderment That Serve Our Souls”. The novel is a part of exploration of alternative religious history. The protagonist of the novel is a

symbolist Robert Langdon and Sophie Neveu as they investigate a murder in Paris's Louvre Museum and discover a battle between the Priour of Sion and Opus D.The novel nonetheless becomes a worldwide best seller that sold 80 million copies as of 2009 and has been translated into 44 languages.

b) 'Angels & Demons':

'Angels & Demons' is a bestselling mystery-thriller novel written by American author Dan Brown and published by Pocket Books. Dan Brown exposed the conflict between science and religion. Ancient history, semiotic architecture and semiotic symbolism are also heavily referenced throughout the book. Robert Langdon is a Professor of symbolism at Harvard University and the main protagonist of the novel. He is flown to CERN to help investigated the novel murder of Leonardo Vetra.This novel has adapted into feature film and it was released on May 15, 2009

Agatha Christie:

a) 'And Then There is None':-

This novel is a mystery novel by the renowned English writer Agatha Christie, described by Agatha as the most difficult book to write.It was first published in the United Kingdom by the Collins Crime Club on 6 November 1939; the first title of this novel was 'Ten Little Niggers', after the children's counting rhyme and minstrel song, which serves as a major plot element of the novel which was presented in some semiotic elements. Later on the US edition was released in January 1940 with the title 'And Then There Were None,'this title was taken from the last five words of the song.Successive American reprints and adaptations use that title, though Pocket Books paperbacks used the title 'Ten Little Indians' between 1964 and 1986. UK editions continued to use the original title until 1985.'Ten Little Niggers', this song was written by Frank Green; published in 1869 .Agatha Christie changed the story of the last little boy because of the purpose of this novel.

This book is the world's best-selling mystery book, and with over 100 million copies sold this book became one of the best-selling books of all time. The novel has been listed as the sixth best-selling title (any language, including reference works).On her 125th Birthday, on 15 September 2015 'And Then There Were None'was named as "World's Favorites Christie" in a vote sponsored by theauthor's estate. Most of her books and short stories have been adapted fortelevision, radio, video games and comics.

b) Murder on the Orient Express'(1934):-

Murder on the Orient Express is the tenth novel in Agatha Christie's HerculePoirot series. Despite being the tenth offering from the series, it is possible to follow along and enjoy the story without having read the previous installments. The narrative gets off to a slow start setting up the characters, location, and plot. However, once the action begins, the story quickly becomes exciting and engrossing. Christie sets up the plot in a way that keeps readers guessing the murderer's identity until the very end. All of the semiotic clues are presented at the beginning of the novel, as well as all of the characters and their motives, allowing readers to guess and create meaning of semiotic aspects about who the culprit might be. Murder on the Orient Express is a captivating and well-written mystery. It is no wonder why Agatha Christie is known as the Queen of Mystery. She truly was a master of her craft.

'Murder on the Orient Express' is a work of detective fiction by English writer Agatha Christie featuring the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. It was first published in the United Kingdom by the Collins Crime Club on 1 January 1934. In the United States, it was published on 28 February 1934, under the title of Murder in the Calais Coach, by Dodd, Mead and Company.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle:

'A Study in Scarlet' (1887):

'A Study in Scarlet' is amystery detective novel by Doyle. This novel is noticeable because the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes. The story, its semiotic aspects and main characters fascinated to the readers. This novel is one of the full-length novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. The story marks the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who were the most famous detective pair in the literature. This the murder investigation through the semiotic elements.

'A Study in the Scarlet' was adapted on screen. A two reel short story released in the United States in 1914.This novel also adapted into four- part serial for radio series 'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.' It was published by Beetons Christmas Amun in 1887.

2. The Sign of Four:

'The Sign of Four' is the second novel of the Arthur Conan Doyle in which Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr. Watson solve the mystery of the hidden treasure and murder with semiotic clues.

The novel revolves around the Agra treasure. The story appearance of the treasure leads to a direct and often tragic change in the lives of the characters.

This novel is adapted in to film as well as in T.V series with the name of 'Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; or Held for Ransom, the radio adaption of the story was broadcast on New York radio station. This novel was published by Spencer Blacket in 1890.

5. Aims and Objective of the study

1) To analyze and comprehend the 'Mystery Fiction with Semiotic analysis of the novels'.

2) To evaluate and focus on 'Mystery and Semiotic Elements' in 'The Da Vinci Code' and 'Angels and Demons'.

3) To scrutinize and nucleus 'Mystery Semiotic Components' in 'And Then There Were None' and 'Murder on the Orient Express'.

4) To analyze and emphasis 'Mystery and Semiotic aspects' in the 'A Study of Scarlet' and 'The Sign of Four'

4) To compare between Dan Brown and Agatha Christie' and Arthur Conan Doyle's selected novels.

6. Hypothesis

The select fictions of Dan Brown, Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle are strongly marked by some semiotic elements of Mystery with the reference to some historical events, Symbols and signs, clue and its meanings in mysterious way. Researcher has come across some similarities and differences between their detective works and influence of their respective American and British literary tradition.

7. Methodology

For the present study emphasis will be laid on a close reading of the primary and secondary sources. The analytical and semiotic analysis of the texts will be done to discuss the issue of

"Mystery Fiction". Like most literary studies; this research also uses the technique of close reading of the texts under consideration which further helps in interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating various issues that are the focus of the study. Therefore, the methodology contains collection of reference material, preparation of the framework of analysis and the writing of the thesis. The work is divided into six chapters with the focus on the observation of the critical framework of the selected texts. The researcher has followed the standards of methodology of literary research

a) Primary Sources:

- Brown, Dan. 'The Da Vinci Code'. United States: Doubleday Group, 2003.
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- Christie Agatha, 'Murder on the Orient Express', Collins Crime Club: United Kingdom, 1934.
- Doyle Arthur Conan, 'A Study in Scarlet', Beetons Christmas Amun in 1887.
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b) Secondary Sources:

- Burstein, Dan (ed). Secrets of Angels & Demons: The unauthorized guide to the bestselling novel, 2004, CDS Books. ISBN 1-59315-140-3, Collection of many essays by world-class historians and other experts, discussing the fact & fiction of the novel
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- Redmond ,Christopher ,Sherlock Holmes Handbook 2nd ed.(2009)
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8. Tentative Chapter Scheme

Introduction

a) Brief review of Mystery Fiction and Semiotic analysis.

b) Introduction to Dan Brawn, Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle.

c) Review of work done on Dan Brown. Agatha Christieand Arthur Conan Doyle

d) Hypothesis.

e) Research Methodology**.**

Chapter I: Mystery fiction, generic featu**res and semiotic analysis.**

Chapter II: 'The Da Vinci Code'and 'Angels and Demons' novel – a Mystery and Semiotic analysis

Chapter III: 'And Then There Were None' and 'Murder on the Orient Express' novel – a Mystery and Semiotic analysis

Chapter IV: 'A Study of Scarlet' and 'The Sign of Four'a Mystery and Semiotic analysis

Chapter V A Comparative study between Dan Brown , Agatha Christie' Arthur Conan Doyle's selected novels**.**

Chapter VI: Conclusion.

9. Literary Review

As per researcher's knowledge, a full length work has not been done on these two novels by Dan Brown, some research work done on Agatha Christie',Arthur Conan Doyle s, and famous literary work but no any full length research work on comparative study between American and British mystery and semiotic analysis works.

Some interviews, lectures, newspaper article have been published. The following critical articles and books have been published.

a) Brown Dan's: "The Da Vinci Code", Matt Lauer on The Today Snow in September 2009.

b) Brown Dan's: "The Da Vinci Code", Janet Maslin of The New York Times.

c) Brown Dan's:"Angels and Demons"CERN published a FAQ page.

d) Brown Dan's:"The Da Vinci Code"David Lazarus of The San Fracisco chronicle.

e) Charles Osborne, *The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie*, (London:Michael O' Mara Books Ltd., 1982).

f) Cooper-Clark, Diana. *Design of Darkness: Interviews with DetectiveNovelists*, Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green State UniversityPopular Press, 1983.

g) Fitzgibbon, Russell H. *The Agatha Christie Companion.* Ohio:Popular Press, 1980. Pri**nt.**

h)MYSTERY, THRILL AND SUSPENSE IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE AND MARGERY ALLINGHAM: A COMPARATIVESTUDY :Mr.SayedGausoddin,SRTMUN.

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16.MYSTERY, THRILL AND SUSPENSE IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF AGATHA CHRISTIE AND MARGERY ALLINGHAM: A COMPARATIVESTUDY :Mr.SayedGausoddin,SRTMUN.

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Place:

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